

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, and 17 have been previously canceled. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 16, and 18 through 20 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 7 through 14, and 18 through 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jogan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,429,786). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

U.S. Patent No. 5,429,786 to Jogan et al. discloses a method of manufacturing a resin member. A door trim DT is manufactured with a female mold 33 and a male mold 34 mating with each other shown in FIG. 10. The male mold 34 is provided with a fence 35, which freely protrudes from a molding surface of the male mold 34 into a cavity formed between the male mold 34 and the female mold 33 so as to define the contour of a fluffed sheet element 31 set in the female mold 33. The fluffed sheet element 31 formed to a predetermined shape is set at a predetermined position 36 in the female mold 33. A first thermoplastic resin is then fed into a first cavity section 37 defined by a rear face of the fluffed sheet element 31 and the opposing face of the male mold 34. In a subsequent mold closing and pressing step, the first thermoplastic resin is pressed in the first cavity section 37 against the rear face of the fluffed sheet element 31 while the fence 35 protrudes from the molding surface of the male mold 34. During the mold closing and pressing process, the first thermoplastic resin fills through the first cavity section 37 on the rear face of the fluffed sheet element 31 to be securely integrated with the fluffed sheet element 31. Before the first thermoplastic resin completely hardens in the first cavity section 37, the fence 35 is pulled back to the molding surface of the male mold 34 and a second thermoplastic resin is injected into second and third cavity sections 38 and 39, which are adjacent to the first cavity section 37 on the rear face of the fluffed sheet element 31. The injected second

thermoplastic resin immediately fills through the second and third cavity sections 38 and 39 at the predetermined injection temperature and flows into the first thermoplastic resin, which is hardening in the first cavity section 37 to securely fuse with and adhere to the first thermoplastic resin. Jogan et al. does not disclose the steps of moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on a second half of a mold, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half of the mold, closing the mold, disposing a blade on a first half of the mold in the recess, and moving the slide to a retracted position.

In contradistinction, claim 1, as amended, clarifies the invention claimed as a method of making an interior trim panel for a vehicle. The method includes the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half, moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half, and depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half. The method also includes the steps of closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess, and moving the slide to a retracted position. The method further includes the steps of injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a second side of the cavity to form the interior trim panel.

A rejection grounded on anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is proper only where the subject matter claimed is identically disclosed or described in a reference. In other words, anticipation requires the presence of a single prior art reference which discloses each and every element of the claimed invention arranged as in the claim. In re Arkley, 455 F.2d 586, 172 U.S.P.Q. 524 (C.C.P.A. 1972); Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 713 F.2d 760, 218 U.S.P.Q. 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983); Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 221 U.S.P.Q. 481 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Jogan et al. '786 does not disclose or anticipate the claimed invention of claim 1. Specifically, Jogan et al. '786 merely discloses a method of manufacturing a resin member in

which a male mold is provided with a fence, which freely protrudes from a molding surface of the male mold into a cavity formed between the male mold and the female mold, a first thermoplastic resin is then fed into a space between a male mold and a resilient surface sheet element set in a predetermined recess of a female mold, and a second thermoplastic resin fills a second cavity section, that is, in an area other than rear face of the resilient surface sheet element. Jogan et al. '786 lacks the steps of moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on a second half of a mold, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half of the mold, closing the mold, disposing a blade on a first half of the mold in the recess, and moving the slide to a retracted position. Jogan et al. '786 fails to disclose the combination of a method of making an interior trim panel including the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half, moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half, closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess, moving the slide to a retracted position, and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a second side of the cavity to form the interior trim panel as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As to claim 13, claim 13, as amended, clarifies the invention claimed as a method of making an interior trim panel for an inner panel of a vehicle. The method includes the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half, and moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half. The method also includes the steps of depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half, closing the mold, and disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of the interior trim panel. The method further includes the steps of moving the slide to a

retracted position and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into the mold and forcing the molten plastic material into a second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the interior trim panel.

Jogan et al. '786 does not disclose or anticipate the claimed invention of claim 13. Specifically, Jogan et al. '786 merely discloses a method of manufacturing a resin member in which a male mold is provided with a fence, which freely protrudes from a molding surface of the male mold into a cavity formed between the male mold and the female mold, a first thermoplastic resin is then fed into a space between a male mold and a resilient surface sheet element set in a predetermined recess of a female mold and a second thermoplastic resin fills a second cavity section, that is, in an area other than rear face of the resilient surface sheet element. Jogan et al. '786 lacks the steps of moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on a second half of a mold, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half of the mold, closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of an interior trim panel, and moving the slide to a retracted position. Jogan et al. '786 fails to disclose the combination of a method of making an interior trim panel including the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half, moving a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half, closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of the interior trim panel, moving the slide to a retracted position, and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into the mold and forcing the molten plastic material into a second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the interior trim panel as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As to claim 20, claim 20, as amended, clarifies the invention claimed as a method of making a door trim panel for attachment to an inner panel of a door of a vehicle. The method includes the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half and extending a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half. The method also includes the steps of depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half, closing the mold, and disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of the door trim panel. The method further includes the steps of retracting the slide to a retracted position and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a second side of the cavity and forcing the molten plastic material into the second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the door trim panel.

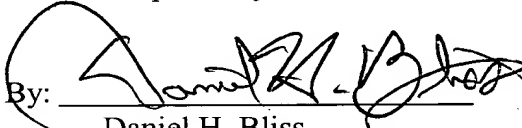
Jogan et al. '786 does not disclose or anticipate the claimed invention of claim 20. Specifically, Jogan et al. '786 merely discloses a method of manufacturing a resin member in which a male mold is provided with a fence, which freely protrudes from a molding surface of the male mold into a cavity formed between the male mold and the female mold, a first thermoplastic resin is then fed into a space between a male mold and a resilient surface sheet element set in a predetermined recess of a female mold and a second thermoplastic resin fills a second cavity section, that is, in an area other than rear face of the resilient surface sheet element. Jogan et al. '786 lacks the steps of extending a slide having a recess to an extended position on a second half of a mold, depositing a molten thermoplastic material onto the second half of the mold, closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of the door trim panel, and retracting the slide to a retracted position. Jogan et al. '786 fails to disclose the combination of a method of making a door trim panel including the steps of providing a mold having a first half and a second half, loading a trim blank into a first side of a cavity of the first half, extending a slide having a recess to an extended position on the second half, depositing a

molten thermoplastic material onto the second half, closing the mold, disposing a blade on the first half in the recess to form a first portion of the door trim panel, retracting the slide to a retracted position, and injecting a molten thermoplastic material into a second side of the cavity and forcing the molten plastic material into the second side of the cavity to form a second portion of the door trim panel as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 3, 6, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Jogan et al. '786. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the same reasons given above to claims 1 and 13.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the final rejection. It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

Respectfully submitted,

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